the WAKEFIELD High School PTA Bulletin

NOVEMBER 1960

Meeting: Monday, November 28, 8:00 p.m.
Wakefield Auditorium

Film: "And No Bells Ring" and
Discussion on New Directions to Quality Education

American schools are taking new directions to quality education. The whole concept of the high school is undergoing change -- some of this has started at Wakefield.

Grouping for instruction -- Flexible schedules -- Team teaching -- Automated equipment -- Longer school day.

This promises to be a most interesting meeting. The film, "And No Bells Ring," was produced by a Commission of the National Association of Secondary School Principals and is narrated by Hugh Downs (of the Jack Paar show). It shows some of the new teaching ideas in practice. No bells ring to interrupt a class; the class goes on as long as is necessary.

Dr. Harold Wilson, Wakefield principal, will discuss the implications of the new directions to quality education, and relate the film to some of the projects going on at Wakefield.

The annual PTA budget for 1960-61 will be adopted at this meeting. The proposed budget, recommended by the Executive Committee for adoption by the Association, appears on the back of the bulletin.

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PTA MEMBERSHIP to date is approximately 2,050, with about twice as many family memberships as single memberships. There are still about one-third of the Wakefield families unrepresented. Opportunity will be provided to join at the November meeting--$1.00 for single membership or $1.50 for both parents.

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WHAT ABOUT OUR SENSE OF VALUES?

We are probably the richest and most productive country and people the world has ever known. Why then do we not meet health, old age, welfare and education needs effectively?

Maybe we should take a look at our value scale. Americans spent approximately $14 billion for primary and secondary education in the 1959-60 school year, and some complained about the cost of education. Yet crowded schools, too many students per teacher, and inadequately trained teachers are more often the rule than the exception over the United States today. Of the 26,500 high schools in this country, only 5,000 of them produced 82% of the college students.

During calendar year 1959, we spent: over $7 billion for tobacco products, over $9 1/2 billion for alcoholic beverages, over $15 billion for cars (much of this was for the status involved in a new model). Taxes are included in the above figure. During 1959, we spent only a little over $1 billion on books and maps.

Is there any investment more important than in the training and education of the minds of America? Better education is going to cost more money--a reduction of pupil-teacher ratio, higher qualifications for teacher (means more salary to get them), adequate facilities and equipment, and the like.

I begin to wonder when someone who has a late model car (or perhaps two cars), two or more TV sets, a power lawn mower, etc. complains about his tax bill, especially his tax bill for education. I wonder what his values are and what he thinks is more important--a soft life full of creature comforts for himself or the development of well educated younger citizens capable of meeting the scientific, business, governmental, and social challenges of tomorrow.

-- Theodore W. Taylor, PTA President

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OUR HEALTH COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN, Mrs. Gwen Wurtz, has asked us to express appreciation to all those who assisted in the big task of testing eyes, weight and height of Wakefield students.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank each of the following mothers, and the one father for all their help on the Health Committee: Mesdames Alford, Ailstock, Boone, Baker, Coates, Dover, Dyson, Fentress, Gronberg, Impalateri, Houghton, Jenkins, Ketcham, Lowdenslager, Mays, Merold, Milberg, Morrison, Noyes, Peace, Reid, Puzak, Robinson, Ruble, Scott, Smith, Sowers, Schwalm, Sussholz, Trapnell, Wyatt, and Mr. and Mrs. Wiseman. Also thanks to those mothers who had volunteered their services, but at the last minute were not needed.

It was a pleasure working with the committee and with Mrs. Trusch, the school nurse, and I think all of those who worked enjoyed it. Our thanks too, to the PTA and Mrs. Garland and her staff in the Cafeteria, for the coffee and do-nuts that helped us get through the long day. And lastly, thanks to the students and teachers for their cooperation.

-- Gwen Wurtz, Health Committee Chairman

From all the rest of us parents, a big THANKS to Gwen Wurtz and to the committee for a fine job.

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PROPOSED BUDGET FOR 1960-1961 SCHOOL YEAR
(approved by Executive Committee November 1, 1960
for adoption by the Association.)

INCOME

Bank balance at start of school year	$ 1,144
Membership dues: deposited through 10/31/60	1,621
" " " estimated additional	100
PTA net receipts from Wakefield Day 6/4/60	1,232
Total Income	$ 4,097

EXPENDITURES

Dues paid to Arlington County Council	$ 52
Dues paid to National and Virginia Congress of PTA	540
Teachers orientation luncheon	31
Delegates to conferences	50
Northern Va. District PTA Scholarship Fund	50
Arlington County Scholarship Fund for Teachers	200
Committees:	
Bulletin and Press	100
Citizenship	10
Curriculum and Parent Education (Handbook)	320
Health	30
Hospitality	200
International Relations	25
Legislation	10
Library	100
Membership	60
Program	10
Student	1,232
Student Activities carryover fund	400
Miscellaneous administrative expenses	20
Contingencies	200
Total Expenditures	$ 3,640
Balance carried forward at end of school year	$ 457